

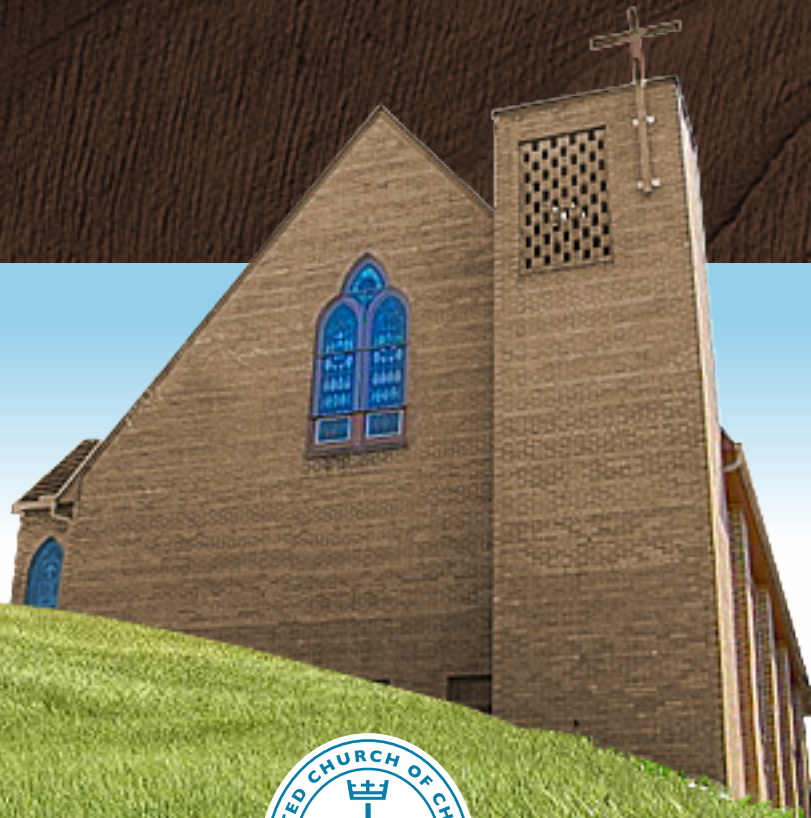


**St. John's**

United Church of Christ

# Digital Newsletter

**SJC Issue 0223 - February 2023**

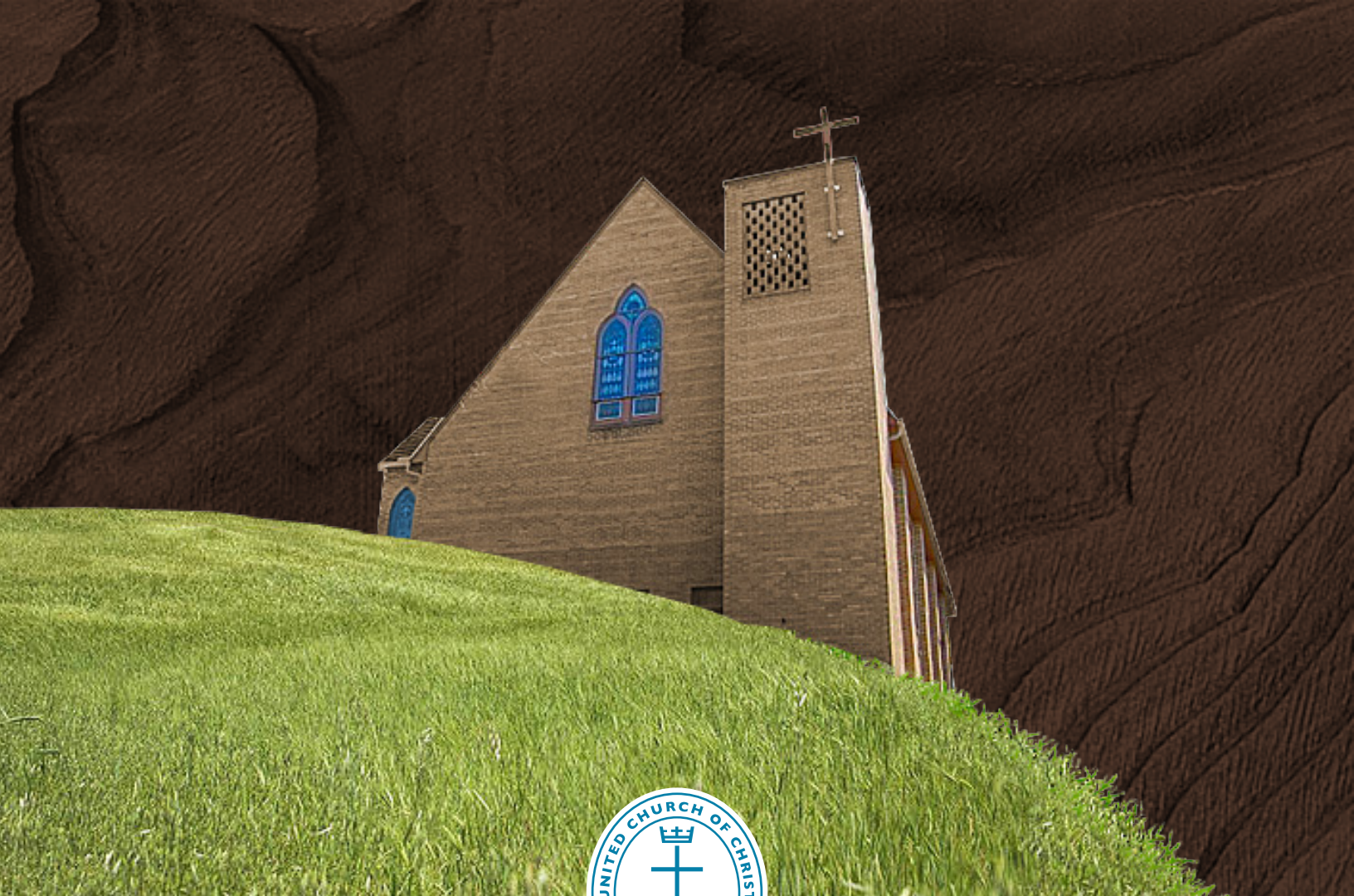


**[stjohnsfzwi.org](http://stjohnsfzwi.org)**

St. John's Church | United Church of Christ | 303 S Hill Street | Fountain City, WI

**608.687.3277**





# Sunday Worship @ 8:30am

We offer two options for worship on Sundays: in person or online. Whether you prefer to worship from the safety of your home or with others, we at St. John's want to make sure you get the spiritual encouragement you need. Join us in person each Sunday at 8:30am or watch a video recording of the online service. The service is not recorded live but is uploaded after the service has ended. We look forward to worshipping with you!

## **stjohnsfcwi.org**

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# Letter From The Pastor

**February 2023**

A few years ago, it was popular to suggest leading with the question “What’s your story?” Not in the disparaging way, such as “What IS your story?” But simply asking “What’s your story?” to start a job interview, first date, trying to make small talk at parties, is an open ended way to get to know someone. Hopefully it invites more conversation than merely asking “Where do you live?” “What do you do?” or other questions.

The thing is that we don’t have just one story. We have stories of who has influenced us, major events, and minor moments whose impact us much later. Our lives are made up of stories filled with laughter and tears, public and private moments. And over time, how we perceive our stories changes. At a time, these stories remind us of who we are during times of challenge. Then challenge us to look towards who we might be.

And of course, Christians are people of the story: the story told in and through our scriptures, songs, traditions, and memories of God’s actions and love in our lives, and in our world (or as the hymn puts it “I love to tell the story...of Jesus’ and his love.”) Stories form communities, strengthen relationships, and allow communities to grow as more stories from more people, times and places are added into the mix.

Over the next couple of months, we are going to share some stories in different ways. First, on February 18 you are being invited to join us for a “Soup & Stories Supper” at 4:00pm. Richard Ruben will start us off with some stories from the history of St. John’s Church. Then depending on the number of people there we will invite people to share at their table or with the whole group some of their stories of their life as part of this congregation. The Women’s Guild will provide the soup and other supper accompaniments. I look forward to getting to know more about the church, congregation, and you on that evening.

Continued on next page...

# Letter From The Pastor

**February 2023**

Then we move into Lent starting with an Ash Wednesday service on February 22 at 6:30pm. Lent itself is a time of spending time with the story of Jesus' journey towards the cross, as well as the impact his ministry still has today. As part of diving deeper into that story, I am offering a 6-week Bible Study starting February 28 on each Tuesday at 1:00pm at St. John's Church on the story of the last week of Jesus' life as told through the Gospel of Matthew. I hope you will join me.

So, what is your story? What is our story as St. John's Church? And how shall that story continue going forward? Let's find out together.

God's grace and peace.

**Pastor Deb Kunkel**

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## Contact Our Pastor

**St. John's Church - Pastor Deb Kunkel**

Monday's Noon to 2:00pm  
Wednesday's 10:00am to Noon  
239.994.2528  
pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

St. John's Church  
United Church of Christ  
303 S Hill Street, PO Box 130  
Fountain City, WI 54629-0130





# Sunday Penny Collection

## First Sunday of the Month

The Church School Students will be collecting pennies the first Sunday of every month. We haven't done this in a long time and are anxious to start again. This money enables us to do donations to people or needy projects in our area or throughout the world.

**Sunday, February 05, 2023**



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## Online Calendar

### Visit Us Online 24/7

Please go online and visit our NEW easy to use website for current up-to-date, detailed event information. Our calendar is updated daily. Email us with any questions or comments.

**[stjohnsfzwi.org](http://stjohnsfzwi.org)**



# Soup & Stories Supper

## Community Event

St. John's Church will have a Soup & Stories Supper event on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 4:00pm. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a walk down memory lane. Come and share your stories, bring pictures, slides, etc. Share your experience of Sunday School, confirmation and of days past. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided by the Women's Guild. Hope to see you there! ~ Pator Deb



**Sunday, February 18, 2023**

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# Bible Study

## Jesus' Journey Towards The Cross

Lent itself is a time of spending time with the story of Jesus' journey towards the cross, as well as the impact his ministry still has today.

As part of diving deeper into that story, I am offering a 6-week Bible Study starting Tuesday, February 28 at 1:00pm at St. John's Church on the story of the last week of Jesus' life as told through the Gospel of Matthew. I hope you will join me. ~ Pator Deb

### 6-Week Bible Study

**Tuesdays**

**Starts @ 1:00pm**

- ✓ **Tuesday, February 28, 2023**
- ✓ **Tuesday, March 07, 2023**
- ✓ **Tuesday, March 14, 2023**
- ✓ **Tuesday, March 21, 2023**
- ✓ **Tuesday, March 28, 2023**
- ✓ **Tuesday, April 04, 2023**

St. John's Church  
303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI

**Sunday, February 28, 2023**

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# Liturgists & Others Wanted

## Do you like to read during the service?

Then you will be happy to know that Pastor Deb is seeking liturgists to start the first week in November. Liturgists will lead the Call to Worship and read the first Scripture Reading. If you would like to be included in the pool of liturgists or readers, please let Pastor Deb know or look for the sign-up sheet. Or do you like the spotlight or have a little bit of “ham” in you? Pastor Deb would love to have you join her in skits or dramatic monologues used on occasion during the service. Please let her know (all ages welcome.)



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## Stewardship

### Stewardship Moment from the Deacons

Communication is one of the important keys of life. Life of any group, gathering, organization, etc. St. John's UCC has a life. How can we help? ~ Deacon John Stettler

Choose from the following KEYS below: **BIST**

- B** – Bring others to a church event.
- I** – Invite someone to a church service.
- S** – Show a newsletter from church narthex
- T** – Tell about our church website (email works too)



# Annual Report

## Wisconsin Conference United Church Of Christ

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” Isaiah 60:1

I greet you in the spirit of Epiphany, a season that brings light into the darkness and incarnates love into a broken and fragile world. Perhaps the greatest gift the three wise men could offer us was their bold willingness to follow a star and be led by the light. This is a time in the history of the Church when God’s faithful remnant must look for light, listen for guidance and long for the nudge of the Holy Spirit to help us reimagine what it means to BE THE CHURCH in this time and place.

Every day, the mission and ministry of our wider United Church of Christ affects lives near and far. Together, our spiritual values and inclusive theology, our mission dollars and commitment to justice make a real difference in this world. Spiritually progressive people resonate and partner with us!

In practice, the daily task of the Wisconsin Conference is to connect, resource and support local churches, pastors and leaders. In 2022, keeping pulpits filled was a real challenge. Fortunately, the Conference continued to attract pastoral candidates from around the country as the Conference staff worked tirelessly to support more than 50 searches. Conference programs thrived, including Supportive Ministries, Conflict Transformation Team, Unified MID Team for Members in Discernment, Damascus Project and Catalyst Grants, which helps congregations build partnerships in their local communities to serve the common good. Project grants totaled \$31,794 in 2022.

Our justice work continues. The Creation Care Team is engaging congregations in the Kairos Call to Action. The WISE movement - Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged for mental health - is gaining traction. We are rolling out a new anti-racism training curriculum through the Damascus Project and continuing our efforts toward Indigenous justice with the Ho Chunk Nation.

Continued on next page...



# Annual Report

## Wisconsin Conference United Church Of Christ

The Daycholah Center at Green Lake will soon become our new Conference headquarters. Later in January, the Conference will close on a \$2.4 million agreement with United Church Camps Inc. to transfer the Daycholah Center deed to the Conference, thereby alleviating much of UCCI's debt and allowing for a robust multiyear reboot of our Outdoor Ministries. We now have an accepted purchase offer for the Conference office in DeForest, with plans in place to convert it to a Holistic Health Clinic. We expect that the office transition to Daycholah will take place by early spring, although most staff work will continue to be done remotely.

The Conference board of directors is deeply grateful for your congregation's commitment to Our Church's Wider Mission, and we continue to grow the Wisconsin Foundation UCC, which now manages the assets of several congregations. We invite you to explore this option for your church. We also launched the Leadership Forward capital campaign focusing on long-term funding for three essential Conference ministries: Damascus Project, Catalyst Grants and Ministerial Assistance.

Finally, 2022 brought several significant staffing transitions. In September, we welcomed the Rev. Rachel Bauman as the new associate conference minister in the Southern region. In January, we are excited to welcome the Rev. Michael Jones as the next associate conference minister in the Northwest, succeeding the retired Rev. Rob MacDougall. We also hired an excellent new part-time annual meeting planner, Jaime Craig, and are thrilled to announce (along with the Minnesota Conference) the calling of a new Damascus Project director, the Rev. Stephanie Perdew.



Submitted with a heart full of gratitude and hope,

Rev. Franz Rigert

# Food Shelf

## Report For January 2023

Can you give a couple hours a month and volunteer at the St. John's Food Shelf? Put a note in the offering plate this Sunday or reach out to Pastor Deb or Linda Clark at 715.495.5282. Thank you to our current volunteers! We are trying to help as many people possible!

### Donations Most Needed:

- ✓ Toilet Paper
- ✓ Canned /Ham/Salmon
- ✓ Cake/Brownie
- ✓ Muffin Mixes
- ✓ Canned Frosting
- ✓ Instant Oatmeal
- ✓ Cereal (Healthier)
- ✓ Crackers (Saltines)
- ✓ Rice/Pasta Pouches
- ✓ Vegetable Spray
- ✓ Brown Rice
- ✓ Juice Boxes
- ✓ V8/Tomato Juice
- ✓ Boost/Ensure
- ✓ Canned Chili
- ✓ Canned Stew
- ✓ Spices
- ✓ Applesauce
- ✓ Salad Dressing
- ✓ Ketchup
- ✓ BBQ Sauce

**1st & 3rd Monday: 4:30pm - 6:30pm**  
**2nd & 4th Wednesday: 3:00pm - 5:00pm**



- ✓ 270 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 12 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 23 Total People Helped
- ✓ 00 Children
- ✓ 06 Adults
- ✓ 06 Seniors
- ✓ 06 Households (1 Came Twice)

# Volunteers: February

## Ushers

Brady Krause, Bill Krause Jr., Adam Krause

## Greeters

02.05.23 Mary Aus & Cindy Ziegler  
02.12.23 Faye Strelow & Ron Novak  
02.19.23 Neal & Diane Schaffner  
02.26.23 Mary Schmitt & Karen Knospe  
03.05.23 Randy & Judy Boehm

## Counters

Dave & Sue Schaffner

## Communion & Flowers

Dale Schmidtknecht

# Financial Report

For detailed information regarding the financial standing of St. John's Church, contact the office to review financial documents.

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## Birthdays

Kayla Knospe  
Elaina Jo Conners  
Cindy Ziegler  
Adam Krause  
Chris Ritscher  
Gabriel Ritscher  
Delaney Yapp  
Mark Schaffner  
Rev. Betsy Miler-Ruben  
Dawn Fiedler  
Alicia Knecht  
Ron Novak  
Jerrild Kreher  
Erik Sutter  
Doris Ruben  
Joy Pehler  
Doug Ratz  
Susan Fons  
Tom Risley  
Dan Wicka  
Drew Schaffner  
Logan Schaffner

## Anniversaries

Becky K & Bryan Guenther  
Carl & Sara Brommerich  
Dan & Karen Knospe



# Confirmation

## Confirmation Class Schedule

We offer Confirmation class for middle or high schoolers. This process which includes class meetings, service opportunities, leading worship, and other activities created to fit the needs and interests of each particular class. Our youth will be enriched by these conversations and planning so that we can welcome them into the journey of our life together.



### Confirmation Class

3:30pm - 5:00pm  
St. John's Church  
Education



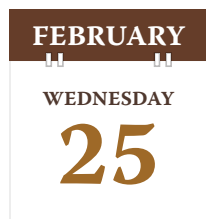
### Confirmation Class

3:30pm - 5:00pm  
St. John's Church  
Education



### Confirmation Class

3:30pm - 5:00pm  
St. John's Church  
Education



### Confirmation Class

3:30pm - 5:00pm  
St. John's Church  
Education



# Other Special Events

## St. John's Church

Along with our Sunday Worship Service schedule, Pastor Deb's Office Hours, Consistory Meetings, Food Shelf Schedule and other recurring events. Below is a list of SPECIAL EVENTS located at St. John's Church and or the local area. Please contact us with any questions. Thanks again for all the support from volunteer and the community.



### **Penny Collection St. John's Church**

303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 8:30am



### **St. John's Church Soup & Stories Supper**

303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 4:00pm



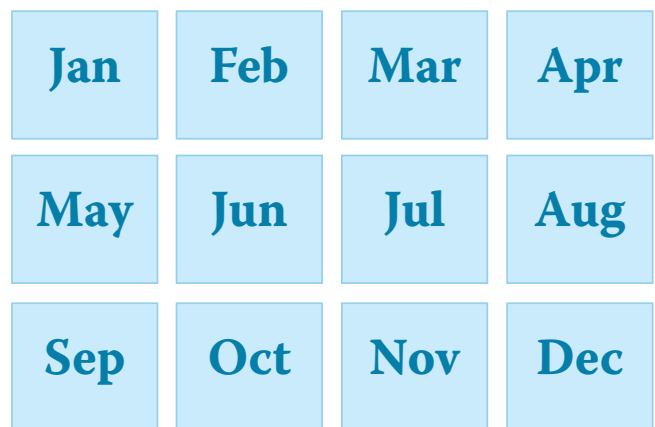
### **St. John's Church Ash Wednesday**

303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 6:30pm



### **St. John's Church Bible Study**

303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 1:00pm



## Online Calendar

Please go online and visit our NEW easy to use website for current up-to-date, detailed event information. Our calendar is updated daily. Email us with any questions or comments.

**[stjohnsfcwi.org](http://stjohnsfcwi.org)**  
**[info@stjohnsfcwi.org](mailto:info@stjohnsfcwi.org)**

# Prayer Requests

## St. John's Church - Pastor Deb Kunkel

Congregation members and non-members are encouraged to request prayers for times of need, comfort, healing, celebration and joy. If you would like a visit from Pastor Deb, please call her to set up a time today!



**Pastor Deb's Office Hours:**

Monday's Noon to 2:00pm  
Wednesday's 10:00am to Noon  
239.994.2528  
pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

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# St. John's

United Church of Christ

Church Office:

[stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com)

Newsletter:

[stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com)

Pastor Deb's Office Hours:

Monday's Noon to 2:00pm | Wednesday's 10:00am - Noon

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